

JUDGES TEACH PEOPLE CONTEMPT OF COURTS

At Seattle, Wash., a jury gave a verdict against a big corporation of \$12,262 in favor of Eli Melocich, a workingman. This man lost his right arm; his chest was torn open, and he suffered lasting internal injuries.

In the charge to the jury, Judge Hanford used the words "any negligence." Then he set aside the verdict and gave the big corporation a new trial because he "prejudicially" use the word "any" in his charge to the jury.

Incidentally the judge said the verdict was too big as "\$12,000 is about five times too much for a workingman's hand."

Is it any wonder that judges, courts and even law itself are in bad repute with the people?

This is not an isolated case. Though the law is no respecter of persons, its administrators often are. The records are full of cases where rich and poor offenders, equally guilty of violating the same law, did not get the same treatment.

Judges that juggle and misinterpret law to favor the mighty are moral criminals.

Decisions which make sport of want and suffering, turn law into a tragic joke. While a bad thing for the victims of such injustices, such decisions, however, are a good thing in so far as they open the eyes of the people to a wicked judicial system.

Courts are what the judges make them; and some judges will go the limit in using their power

to help the people whose political pull got these judges their jobs.

Money - bought, society - controlled, ambition-influenced and fear-inspired judges and courts - are a mighty live question right now.

Discussion of a remedy for a rotten and corrupt judiciary has prompted the people of several states to adopt the Initiative, referendum and Recall.

The legal profession, seeing the handwriting on the wall, is trying to storm the tide of public opinion that wants the courts shorn of the power that belongs to the people.

The people are aroused and it is only a matter of time before the farce comedy of justice now playing in most courts will be pushed off the boards, never to re-appear as an insult to the intelligence of the people and a disgrace to civilization.

Just a few more verdicts like the Hanford decision is all that is needed to stir up a tidal wave of public indignation that will result not only in state but in federal the Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

SNOW.

Rain turning to snow and colder tonight with lowest temperature about 26 degrees above zero; for Chicago and vicinity; Saturday, generally fair and comparatively cold; high shifting winds becoming northwest,

